



5-Year Plan (2019 to 2023) North Yakima Conservation District



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Organization of the North Yakima Conservation District

The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) is dedicated to maintaining North Yakima County's renewable natural resources. The District is composed of landowners, land occupiers, and concerned citizens who serve on NYCD's Board of Supervisors as volunteers. NYCD is bordered by the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the west and the Columbia River to the east with the Yakima County line and Ahtanum Ridge forming the northern and southern boundaries respectfully. The NYCD is a political subdivision of Washington State government organized under "Conservation District Law", RCW Title 89, Chapter 89.08.

Function of the North Yakima Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation and implementation of soil, water and related natural resource programs.

We Serve & Why

We serve: landowners, land users, land occupiers, the local community, stakeholders, natural resource users, governmental entities and interest groups within NYCD and partner with other entities on issues of regional and state-wide concern as a non-regulatory local government.

Why do we serve: to enhance, sustain and promote the wise use of natural resources; to achieve good stewardship of natural resources; to educate those we serve; and because NYCD willingly implements RCW 89.08.

Mission Statement of the North Yakima Conservation District

- To enhance and promote the wise use of natural resources; promote sustainable, profitable agriculture and improve the quality of life and culture in Yakima County by:
 - Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance.
 - Support individual private property rights.
 - Building strong coalitions with other groups.
 - Including, but not limited to, government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture, by providing quality, intelligent, technical assistance to cooperators and partners.

Vision of the North Yakima Conservation District

The vision of the North Yakima Conservation District is to benefit the public by working to sustain the economic viability and culture of those who use and enjoy the natural resources within the North Yakima Conservation District and to increase public awareness of district goals and objectives.

Values of the North Yakima Conservation District

The NYCD stands for: providing technical and financial opportunities, promoting cooperation with our partners, providing educational resources, operating under a voluntary/grass roots ideal, implementation of natural resource conservation, striving for the highest and best natural resource use, delivering resource conservation in all its forms, natural resource sustainability and honesty.

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- The North Yakima Conservation District will use all available peer-reviewed and best available data from a variety of sources, data sources include (but are not limited to):
 - NRCS resource data

- Local landowner expertise
 - Historical data
 - Steelhead Recovery Plan
 - Washington State Department of Ecology - 303d list
 - Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Programs - Integrated Plan
 - Yakima County Flood Control Plan
 - Plans dealing with natural resource protection and use produced by local, State and Federal partners
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Trends Impacting Conservation and Landowners in the North Yakima Conservation District (not limited to)

1. State budget issues, decreased funding, states deficit
2. Agricultural vs. urban conflicts, increased pressure from development, restrictions, etc...
3. Fish and stream driven projects vs. resource need based projects
4. Only having issue specific funds when multiple issues need to be addressed.
5. Increase need to be creative in developing funding sources for the District to operate
6. Water Quality mandates
7. Endangered Species Act issues
8. New water quality issues, AFO/CAFO, storm water management, etc...
9. Ability of NYCD to maintain a quality of service to it's customers
10. A broader impact from stakeholder groups with dissimilar or conflicting goals and strategies
11. Diminishing District involvement in federal programs (implementation)
12. Increased negative focus towards agricultural related issues
13. Districts' increased recognition in ability to address resource issues
14. Disconnection with partners in technical issues
15. Spending a disproportionate amount of time looking for funds rather than implementing projects
16. Water resource needs vs. water supply (Hirst Decision, etc..)
17. Increasing regulatory issues (Shoreline Management, Critical Areas, etc...)
18. Increasing need for integrated pest management.
19. Loss of private property to public lands and non-profit organizations
20. Increased demand on natural resources
21. Media messaging toward preservation rather than conservation (non-use vs. wise use)
22. Regulation / program requirements limit landowner participation in implementation of BMP's.
23. Fire prevention vs fire suppression attitudes.

Strategies to Address Trends

District Programs: Develop District programs that address trends. Programs such as farmland protection / working lands, water quality programs, recovery programs, and water quantity programs.

Local, State and Federal funding issues: Participate in legislative activities that provide conservation related funding.

Water Resource and Water Quality related issues including ESA, Irrigation, and Municipal uses: Support water storage / availability issues, assist landowners in meeting W/Q criteria and ESA requirements.

Customer Service issues: increase information and education outreach while maintaining a strong District implementation program(s).

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- Apparent resource concern identified by district staff or others.
- Willing cooperator.
- New regulatory actions that affect current cooperators.
- Future regulatory actions.
- Best use of available resources based on the judgment of the board.
- Future criteria will be based on program specific needs.

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Goals:

- Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning
 - By 2023, 5 landowners will be in a Conservation Easement with the NYCD
 - By 2023, NYCD will have a functioning Conservation Easement Program
 - Goal: Establish a Conservation Easement Program, Manage current Conservation Easements held by NYCD, Establish complimentary programs to move forward CE's with landowners
- Water Resources (Water Quality and Water Quantity)
 - By 2023, Identify and implement solutions for water quality impacts in all priority watersheds
 - By 2023, Identify and implement solutions for water quantity issues in all priority watersheds
 - Goal: Develop, implement and move forward Watershed Plans that include water storage and increased water flow.
 - Goal: Implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County and begin implementation in the Wenas watershed.
 - Goal: Implement programs that address TMDL listings.
- Fish and Wildlife
 - By 2023, assist affected landowners with compliance issues related to the Endangered Species Act and State requirements in NYCD priority watersheds
 - Goal: Complete all fish screening and barrier needs within all priority watersheds.
 - Goal: Develop a fully functioning habitat program to complete recovery needs within priority watersheds.
 - Goal: Be actively involved in all ESA issues to promote compliance with landowner uses.
 - Goal: Implement the WACD Wolf Position Paper
- Livestock Issues (AFO, CAO, and DNP)
 - By 2023, NYCD will develop programs and/or agreements to address livestock issues in NYCD priority watersheds
 - Goal: Develop the Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County and begin implementation in the Wenas watershed.
- Forestry
 - By 2023 Provide assistance to all private landowners and lease holders with forest health needs
 - By 2023 fully implement a fuels reduction program with all private forest owners
 - Goal: Fully implement the fuels reduction program of the Highway 410/12 CWPP.
- Rangeland
 - By 2023, Develop and maintain rangeland programs within NYCD priority watersheds
 - Goal: Develop Firewise program for Rangeland landscapes considering the development of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.
 - Goal: Recognize importance and volume of private property on which wildlife habitat is provided.
- Noxious Weeds and Pests
 - By 2023, Develop integrated pest management programs
 - Goal: Work with Yakima County Weed Control Board to create programs that address common goals.

Critical Geographic Priority Areas: (maps attached)

- Cowiche, Ahtanum, Naches/Tieton, Wenas, Moxee, and Wide Hollow Watersheds.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- By 2023, increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of district priorities, programs and actions with all landowners in the district and our partners.

District Operations Priorities and Goals:

- Maintain, expand and provide effective Natural Resource Conservation programs in an efficient, legal and fiscally responsible manner.

Land Manager Needs

- Information on how to be proactive on regulatory requirements, to include assistance with understanding appropriate practices, monitoring activities and options.
- Education on how to respond to regulatory actions.
- Increased awareness on district products and services.
- Incentive to implement conservation practices before being subject to regulation.
- District funding to support land manager needs.
- Maintain the districts position between the land manager and regulatory agencies.

Priority Actions – 12 Months (all actions are identified in NYCD’s Annual Plan)

Actions	Begin Date	End Date
Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning: Water Resources: Fish and Wildlife: Livestock: Rangeland: Forestry: Noxious Weeds and Pests: (focus areas: Irrigated Cropland and rangeland) Information/Education: District Operations:	See Annual Plan For dates	

Staffing Needs

In order to realize this 5-year plan NYCD proposes the following staffing needs:

- District Manager
- Financial Manager
- Information, Education and Outreach Coordinator / Promoter
- Resource Biologist
- Information/Technology/GIS technician
- WCC Crew Coordinator/Plant Material Facility technician
- Ag Preservation Specialist
- Reception/Secretary/Bookkeeper
- Resource Planners (4)
- Engineer

- Water Quality Technician
- Work Crew (2, 6 member crews)
- Attorney (legal representation)

Annual Budget Needs

In order to realize this 5-year plan NYCD proposes the following Zero Based annual budget (2019 dollars):

- Salary - \$1,329,468
- District equipment - \$75,000
- Office Supplies - \$10,000
- Rent/Utilities - \$75,000
- Vehicle - \$125,000
- Programs/Cost Share - \$10,000,000
- Training - \$50,000
- Other - \$25,000

Total Annual Budget = \$11,689,468

Key Decision Makers

- Elected officials (federal, State and local)
- Conservation Commission Members and Staff
- Washington Association of Conservation Districts and WACD Executive Director
- Partner Entities (Natural Resource Conservation Service, Resource Conservation & Development Council, Department of Ecology, Bureau of Reclamation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, WSU Extension, Yakama Nation, Federal, State, County and local government entities, including municipalities, etc...)
- Stakeholder Groups (Washington State Cattleman's Associations, Hop Growers of Washington, Farm Bureau, Irrigation Districts, Dairy Federation, etc...)
- Environmental Groups (Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Washington Water Trust etc...)

NYCD Watershed Priorities

List of resource concerns for the North Yakima Conservation District (In the following section, "use" means wise use/sustainable use, "protection" means respecting landowner needs with wise use, "enhancement" means meeting landowner needs with best management practices)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Improper land use practices (erosion related, public and private ownership, etc...) | 13. Storm water (quality) |
| 2. Changing plant, grass and forest cover | 14. Flood water (quantity) |
| 3. Soil condition | 15. Riparian habitat
use/protection/enhancement |
| 4. Wind erosion | 16. In stream habitat
use/protection/enhancement |
| 5. Air quality | 17. Upland habitat(s) use /protection/
enhancement |
| 6. Water erosion | 18. Open space area(s)
use/protection/enhancement |
| 7. Water quality | 19. Wildlife |
| 8. Agricultural land
use/protection/enhancement | 20. Native plants |
| 9. Development land
use/protection/enhancement | 21. Resident and salmonid fisheries |
| 10. Forest land
use/protection/enhancement | 22. Water quantity |
| 11. Flood plain
use/protection/enhancement | 23. Noxious Weeds |
| 12. Rangeland use/protection/enhancement | 24. Reintroduction of native or
introduction of non-native species
(plant and animal) |

Ahtanum Creek

1. 22 & 7
2. 8,9,10,11,12,23
3. 21,19 &24

Black Rock

1. 12 & 8
2. 4
3. 19
4. 24

Cold Creek

1. 12
2. 19
3. 13
4. 24

Cowiche Creek

1. 8 & 12, 23
2. 22 & 7
3. 1
4. 21,19, &24
5. 9

Moxee

1. 8,9 and 12
2. 5, 4, and 1
3. 7
4. 14, 15 and 16

Naches and Tieton

1. 14, 11, 9 and 15
2. 8 & 10, 23
3. 7 & 22
4. 19, 21,& 24

Selah

1. 9, 8 and 1
2. 7
3. 22
4. 21
5. 24

Selah Creek

1. 1 & 9
2. 12
3. 20
4. 24

Wenas Creek

1. 22, 7 and 15
2. 12, 1,2 & 24
3. 8,9, 10 and 1

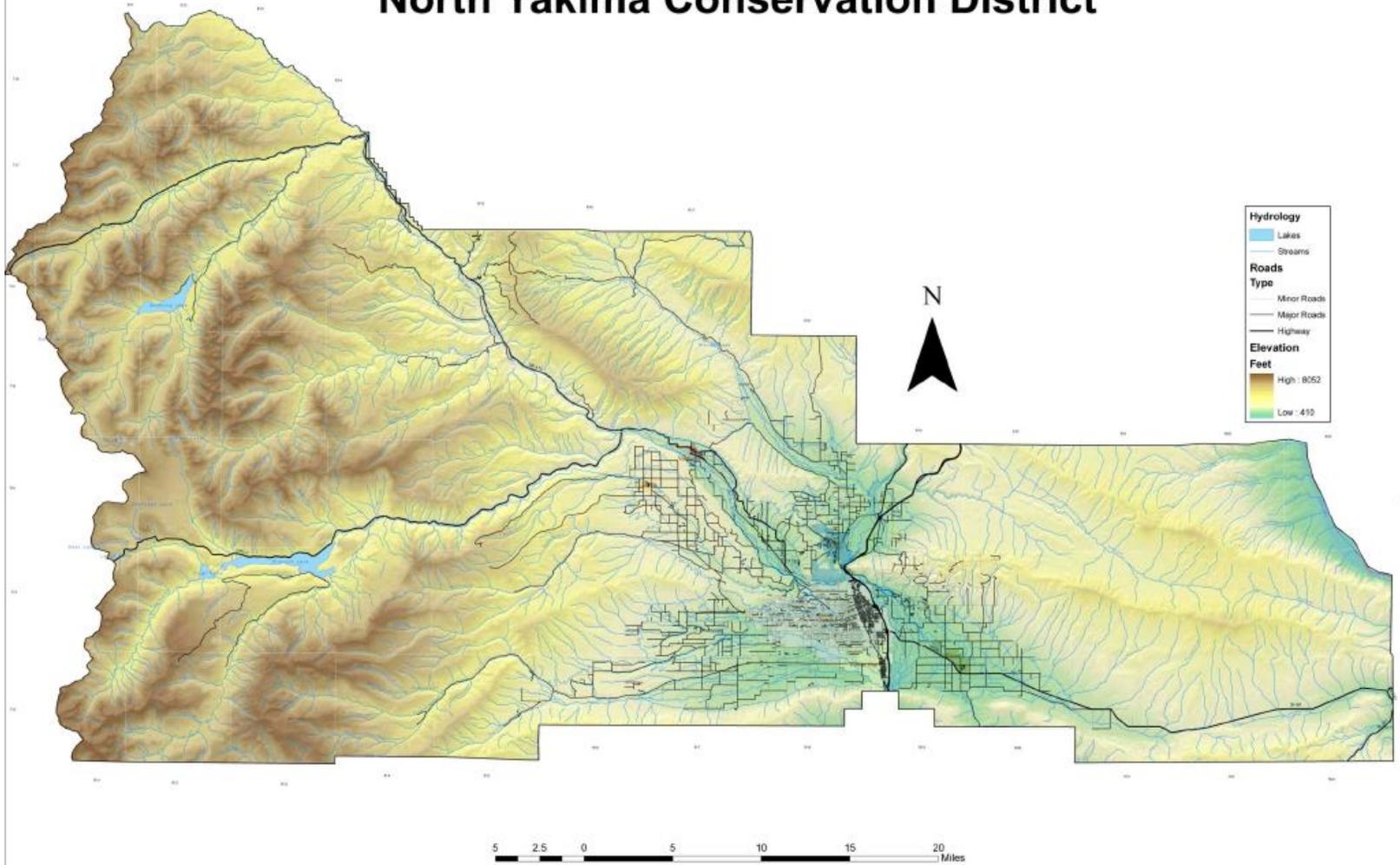
Wide Hollow Creek

1. 9 & 1
2. 15, 14 and 20
3. 7 & 22
4. 21

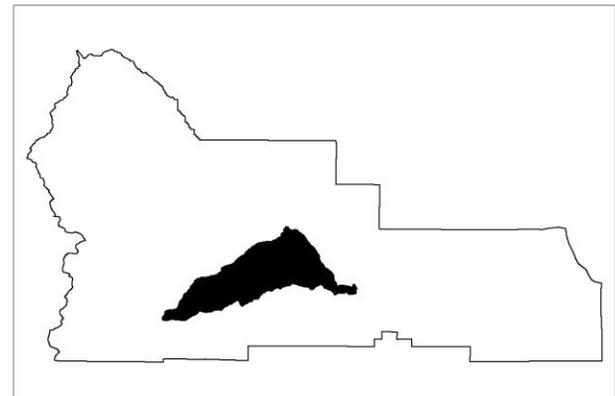
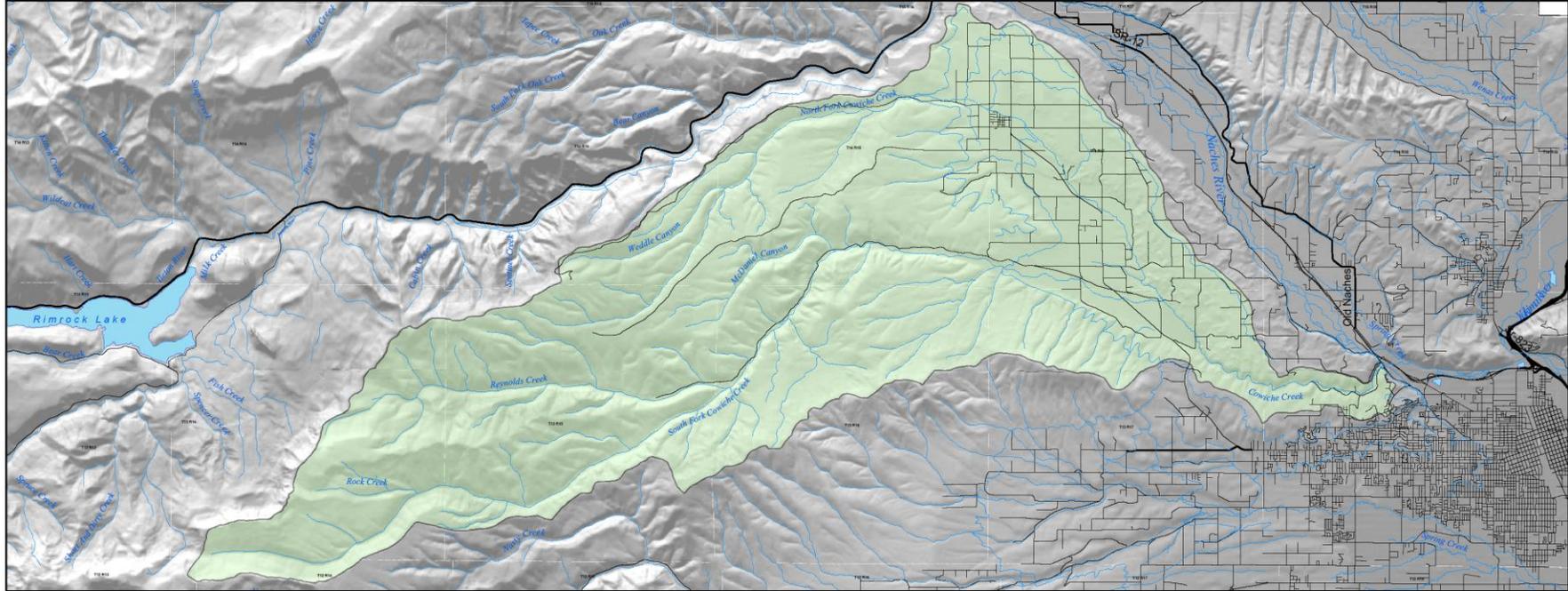
Yakima River Urban

1. 1 & 2
2. 7 & 22
3. 11 & 14
4. 5

North Yakima Conservation District



North Yakima Conservation District: Cowiche Creek Watershed

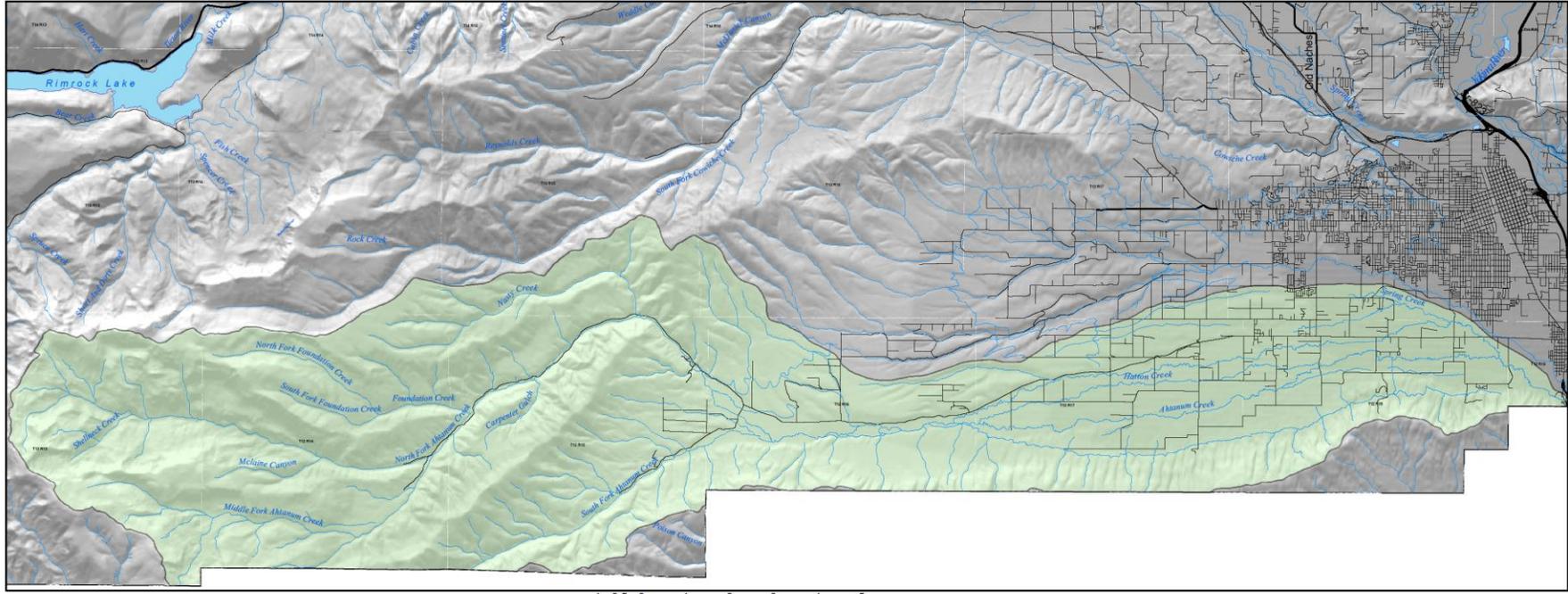


Hydrology	
	Lakes
	Streams
Roads	
Type	
	Minor Roads
	Major Roads
	Highway

Data Sources used in this map series:
Elevation, Hillshade - Washington Geospatial Data Archive
Roads, Townships - Central Washington University Parcels, Watersheds/Parcels - Yakima County GIS Department
Ownership - Washington DNR All data in State Plane NAD83, Washington South

Collection and Production by Ben Reilly

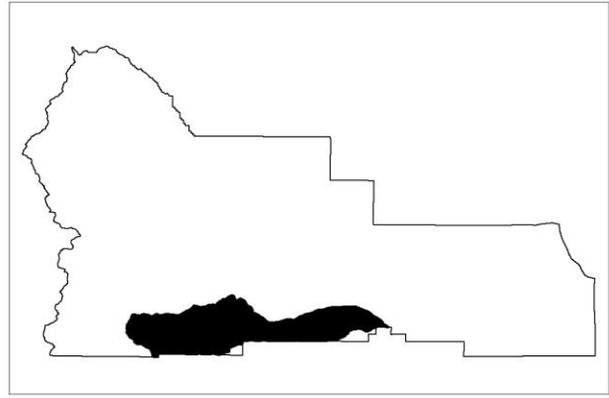
North Yakima Conservation District: Ahtanum Creek Watershed



1 0.5 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles



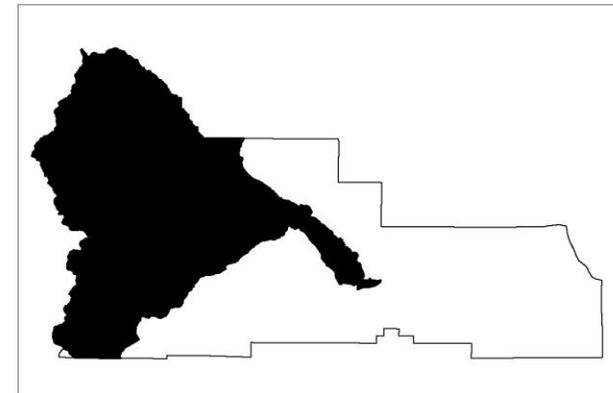
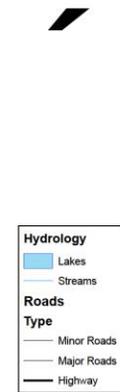
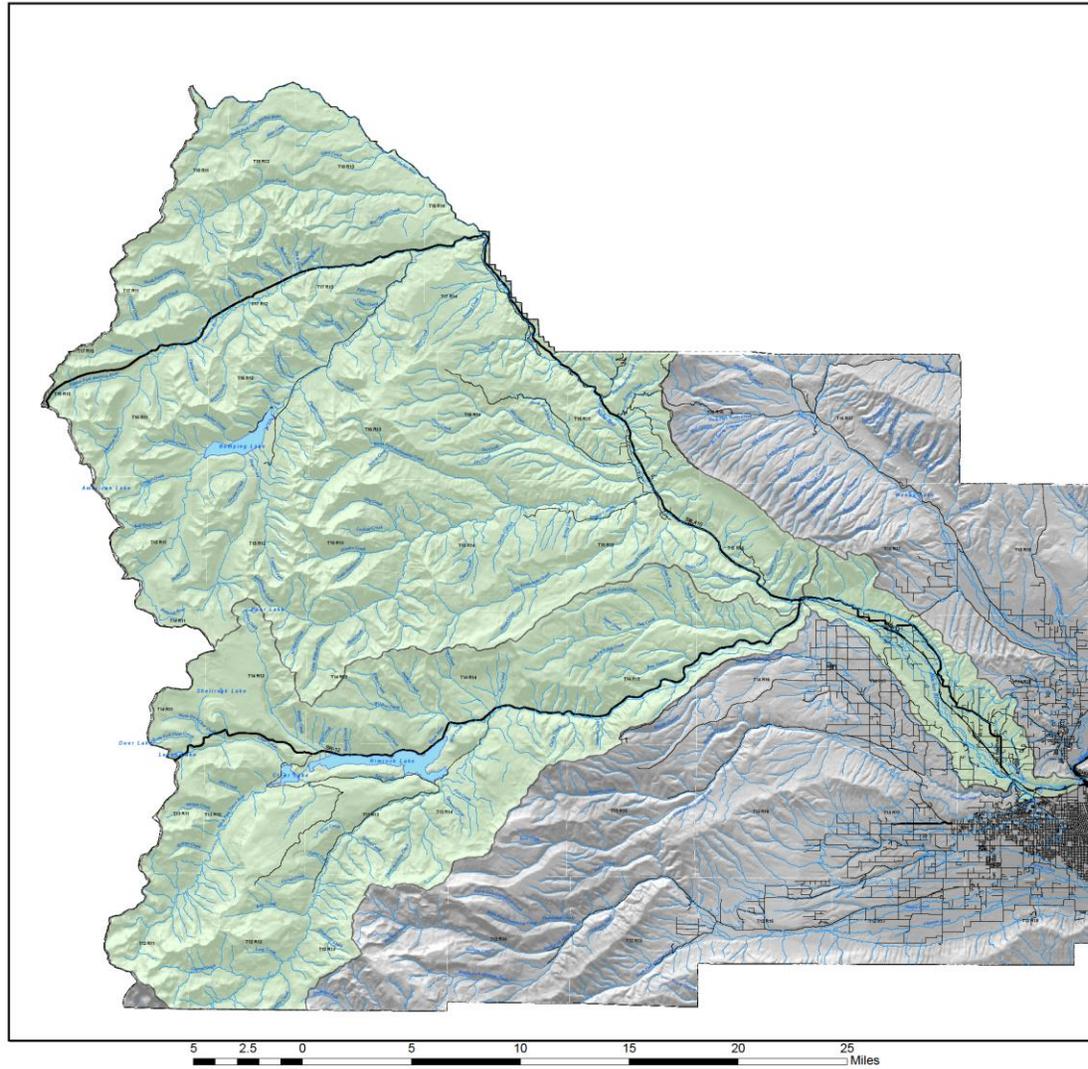
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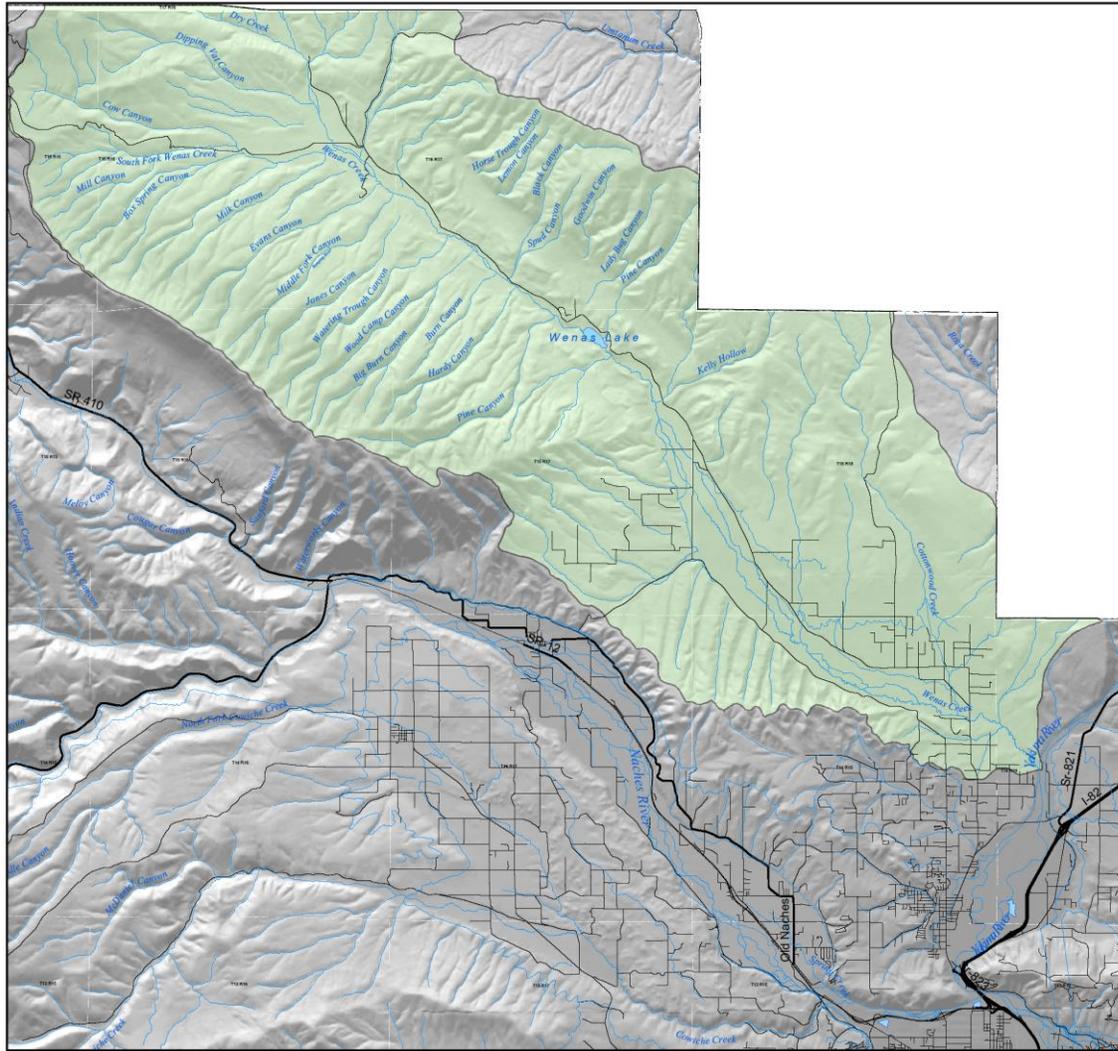
North Yakima Conservation District: Naches/Tieton Watershed



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North Yakima Conservation District: Wenas Creek Watershed



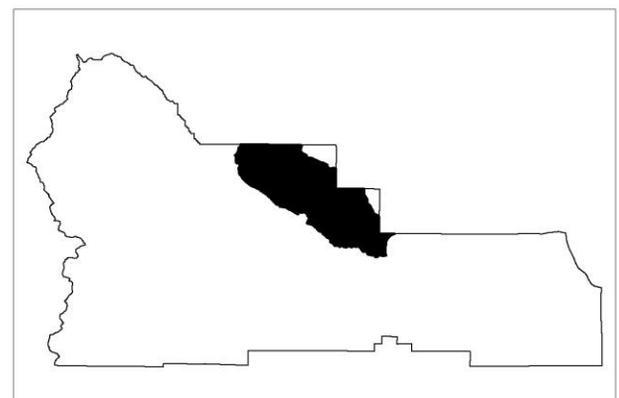
Hydrology

- Lakes
- Streams

Roads

Type

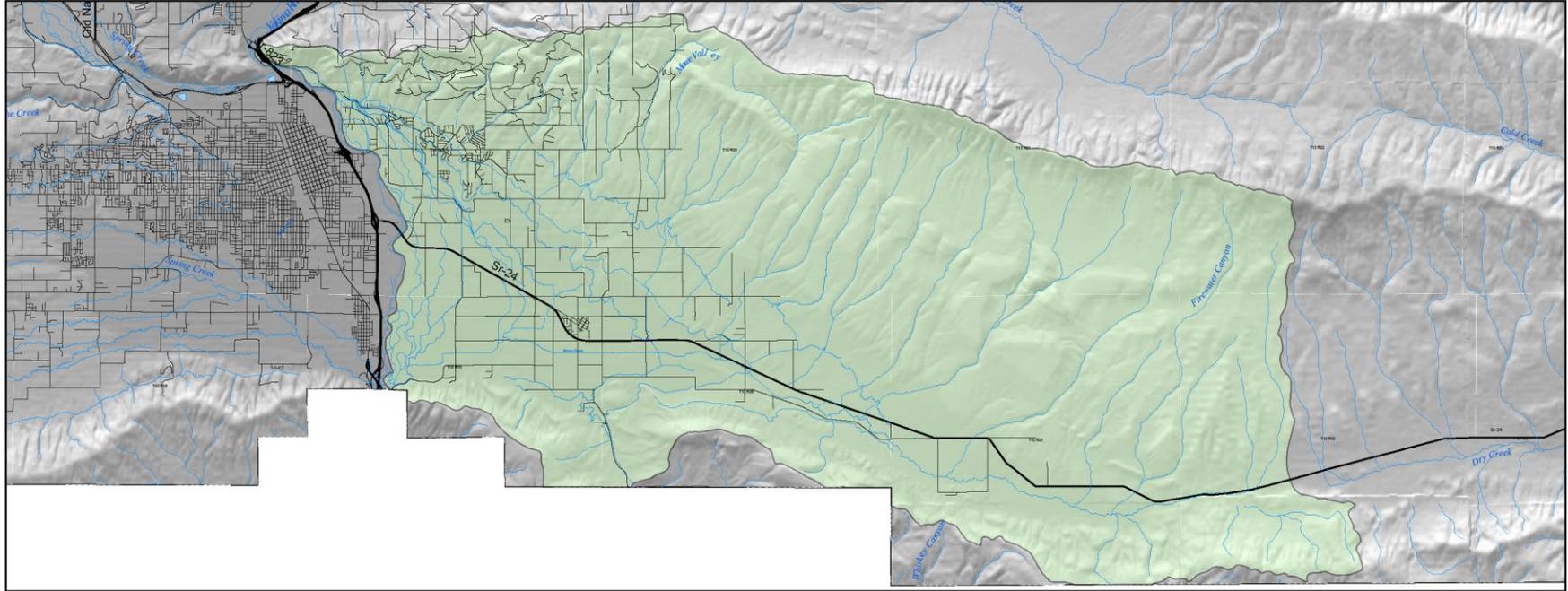
- Minor Roads
- Major Roads
- Highway



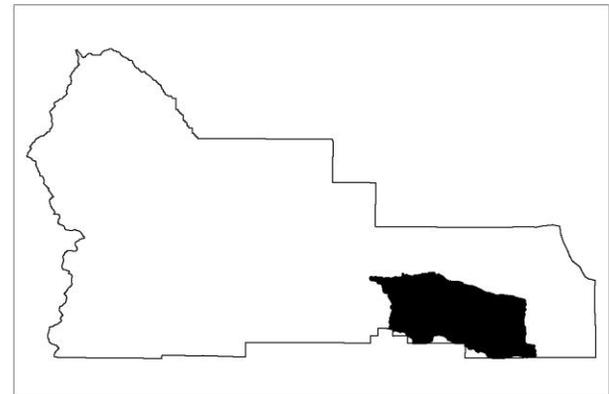
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North Yakima Conservation District: Moxee Watershed



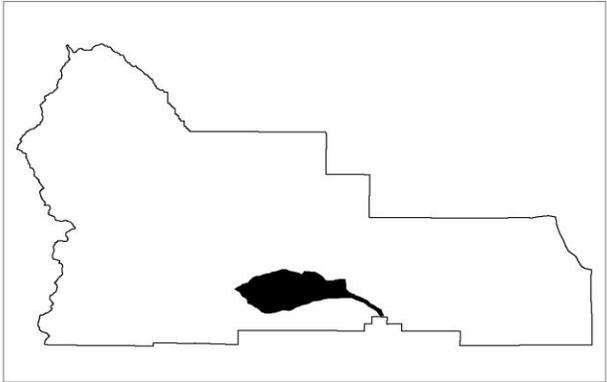
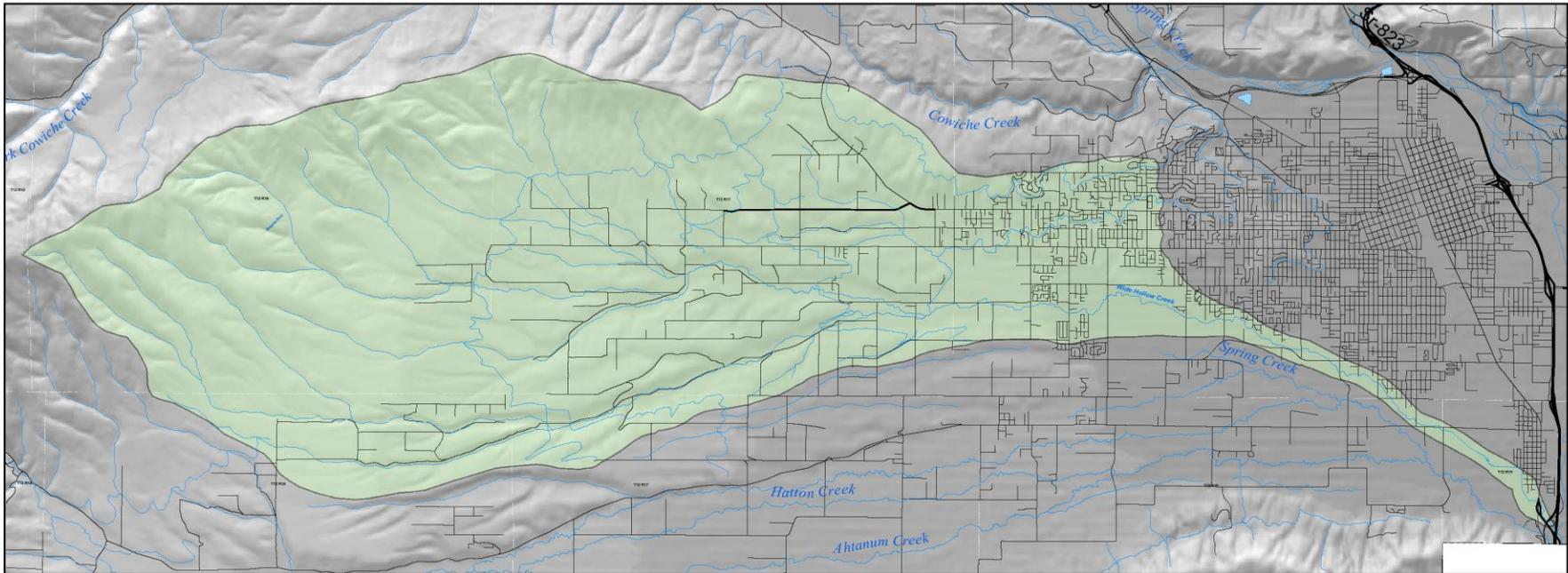
Hydrology	
	Lakes
	Streams
Roads	
	Minor Roads
	Major Roads
	Highway



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North Yakima Conservation District: Wide Hollow Creek Watershed



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